
From: UCPolicy (ACF) <UCPolicy@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 2:09 PM
To: UCPolicy (ACF)
Subject: ORR OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE: March 2019

Importance: High

Dear ORR Care Providers:

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is implementing an operational directive concerning the April 2018 ORR-Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) - Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Information Sharing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Until further notice, ORR is revising policies related to certain release procedures to their pre-MOA status.

1. Effective immediately, **Category 1 sponsors no longer require a fingerprint background check** as part of the sponsor assessment process unless a public records check reveals possible disqualifying information; there is a documented risk to the safety of the child; the child is especially vulnerable; or, the case is being referred for a home study.
 - By Wednesday, March 27th, care provider Case Managers must cancel all fingerprint appointments for eligible Category 1 sponsors.
 - Case Managers must contact eligible Category 1 sponsors to inform them that they no longer require fingerprinting as part of the assessment process.

2. Case Managers must **continue to document a sponsor's immigration status to determine whether a sponsor care plan is necessary**. Confirmation of adult household immigration status is not required. ORR is exploring ways in which to obtain sponsor immigration status without going through the fingerprint process.

Moving forward, care provider Case Managers must obtain the following information from all sponsors and where necessary an adult care giver identified in a sponsor care plan:

- Documentation sufficient to prove an individuals' immigration status- including copies of valid visas; green cards; copies of NTAs; or, other Federal government issued documentation providing immigration status information.
 - Proof of U.S. citizenship – either via naturalization papers; court order; a copy of a U.S. passport; birth certificate from a state or territory of the United States; or other government issued documentation sufficient to prove U.S. citizenship.
 - Verification via the EOIR immigration court hotline that the sponsor has or does not have pending proceedings. Please note that pending proceedings does not disqualify sponsorship.
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3. ORR is **in the process of revising Family Reunification Packet (FRP) forms to reflect the changes to the release process**. ORR/DPP will notify you when new forms are available.

ORR will provide a training early next week to answer any questions you may have on this matter. Please be on the lookout for an invitation to that training. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the UAC Policy Unit at UACpolicy@acf.hhs.gov. We thank you for your service.

Thanks,
Toby Biswas

Toby R. M. Biswas, ESQ.
Unaccompanied Alien Children Policy Supervisor

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Office of the Director – Division of Policy and Procedures

